

NEW YORK HERALD

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
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HERALD.Letters and packages should be properly
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Volume XXXVI.....No. 250

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

LINA EDWIN'S THEATRE, No. 72 Broadway.—KELLY
& LION'S MINSTRELS.FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE, Twenty-fourth street.—
THE NEW DRAMA OF DIVORCE.WALLACE'S THEATRE, Broadway and 10th street.—
BLISS REARD.GLOBE THEATRE, 72 Broadway.—NEBRO ROBERTS—
OCTAVIA BURLINGAME, 20.OLYMPIA THEATRE, Broadway.—THE BALLETS PAN-
TOMIME OF HUMPHRY DEMPTE.BOOTH'S THEATRE, 225 st. between 5th and 6th ave.—
LITTLE NELL AND THE SANCHEZ.WOOD'S MUSIC, Broadway, corner 10th st.—Perform-
ances afternoon and evening.—EAST LYONS.BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—MY NEIGHBOR'S WIFE—
ON THE TRACK.FIFTH AVENUE GARDEN, Broadway, between Prince and
Houston sts.—THE DRAMA OF PRIZE.GRAND OPERA HOUSE, corner of 34th and 35th st.—
JASPER, OR THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD.SAN FRANCISCO MINSTREL HALL, 255 Broadway.—
THE SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS.BRITANNIA NEW OPERA HOUSE, 251 st. between 24th
and 25th sts.—BRITANNIA MINSTRELS.CENTRAL PARK GARDEN.—THEODORE THOMAS'
MUSICAL NIGHTS CONCERT.ASSOCIATION HALL, 23d street and 4th ave.—GRAND
CONCERT.BROOKLYN ACADEMY OF MUSIC, Montague street—
REV. VAN WINKLE.

TRIPLE SHEET.

New York, Thursday, September 7, 1871.

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THE DEMOCRATIC STATE CONVENTION is called to meet at Rochester on the 4th of October.

SANTANA AND BIG TREE, the two Kiowa chiefs who were recently sentenced to be hanged, have had their sentence commuted to imprisonment for life—a punishment doubtless tenfold severer on the hardy chiefs than hanging.

THE SANITARY INSPECTORS who have been inspecting the tenement houses report that they find these houses in an unusually clean condition. It is a wild and almost impossible idea, but it may be that the tenement house owners themselves, frightened by cholera and the plague, have actually taken to cleaning their houses unorderly.

THE ANTI-DRAHOP CONVENTION was held at Syracuse yesterday and a full State ticket was nominated. Of course the anti-drahop men know that they won't get six thousand votes in the whole State, but they take a great interest in their party, evince the greatest care in their platform and show the utmost zeal in their speeches, all the same.

THE CITIZENS' COMMITTEE to CO-OPERATE with the Aldermen and Supervisors in examining the accounts of the city authorities met yesterday (only two of the gentlemen requested to serve having declined to do so) and joined the Aldermen and Supervisors. They declared their readiness to make a full and exhaustive examination of the books and to render an impartial and fearless report. The Comptroller reported that the books and accounts would be ready by Monday next, and they consequently adjourned until Tuesday.

THE CAPTURED PETROLEUMS OF THE FAIR COMMUNE who fired the public buildings by means of petroleum, as a sort of monstrous illumination to the last tableau of the bloody drama, have been tried and sentenced by court martial. This type of female fiends is one of the many curious phenomena engendered by the Paris Insurrection, and may be taken as a specimen of the woman's rights school at its best, or, rather, at its worst. The sentences are as severe as might have been expected. Four of these female incendiaries have been doomed to death and others to various terms of imprisonment. The sentences will probably be commuted to a merciful penalty. After the very recent sanguinary carnival there is now a reaction in France and a general horror of blood. Nearly all the captured heroes of the insurrection have already been disposed of, and with the trial of Rochefort and Rossel will close the last chapter of the tragic transaction, now a part of history as the Commune of 1871.

The Progress of Republicanism in England—Movement of the English Red.

The republicans of England have issued a manifesto, setting forth the principles for which they are prepared to contend and upon which they claim the support of the country. From the brief summary of their imposing programme brought to us by the cable this morning it is evident that they have no intention to rest satisfied any longer with half-way reforms, but are ready to sweep away, at one fell swoop, the whole machinery of monarchy, including palaces, thrones, crowns, monopolies, titles, standing armies and "privileges," and to establish in its stead the principles of federation, compulsory education, State work for the able-bodied, State food for the helpless, the nationalization of lands, popular legislation, and, though last not least, the diffusion of republicanism.

This is the language in which their demands are conveyed to us over the wires; but, in plain English, "the nationalization of lands" means a general division of property, and "popular legislation" contemplates universal suffrage and the abolition of the House of Peers. While there is much in this programme which savors unpleasantly of the Communism of which France has so recently afforded an example to the world, there is at the same time a marked importance in the bold movement of the reformers at the present moment, and great probability of the active agitation of some at least of the planks in their progressive platform.

There are many persons in England not to be numbered among the chronic alarmists who apprehend serious trouble of a revolutionary character in that country on the death of Queen Victoria and the accession of the Prince of Wales to the throne. The dangerous agitators among the laboring classes have done their best to create an impression unfavorable to the Prince in the minds of the masses of the people, and their efforts have certainly not been wholly unsuccessful. There is no doubt that the present precarious condition of the Queen's health has induced the Republican Committee to put forth its manifesto at this time; and when we bear in mind the vast pauper, idle and criminal population of London, it is easy to conceive that very dangerous and lamentable, if not successful, outbreaks, might readily be induced upon a sudden change in the head of the government. In this view the publication of the document at the present moment is full of significance, and implies a deliberate design on the part of the radical leaders to seize the moment of the apprehended national calamity to advance their revolutionary schemes. But, apart from the visionaries who dream of a socialist republic in Great Britain, there are many honest reformers who are just now greatly incensed at the failure of the Ballot Bill and other promised reforms in the recent session of Parliament, and who are looking round for some vent for their disappointment. A great number of them are disposed to saddle the blame upon the Peers, who put the Ballot bill aside after its passage through the Commons, on the plea that there was not sufficient time left before the adjournment to enable them to give to the measure the attention it deserved. Meetings have been held at Birmingham, Leeds and other places, at which, both in the speeches and resolutions, the abolition of the House of Peers has been demanded, or at least such an alteration in the constitution and powers of that body as would prevent it in the future from blocking and defeating the legislation of the popular House. In fact, it is evident that the principle of hereditary legislation is about to be put to a severe test in England, and between the Odger extremists and the Dixon liberals it is not at all unlikely that the old House of Peers may have to go to the wall.

It will be remembered that when the Irish Church bill was threatened with defeat at the hands of the Lords Mr. Gladstone did not hesitate to declare his intention to bring the contumacious House to reason by the creation of a batch of new Peers numerous enough to overbalance those who were opposed to his pet measure for the pacification of Ireland. That moment was one of vital importance to the higher House; a question of life and death was involved in the position it then took. The Peers gave way before the impetuous Premier, and their doom was sealed. It was known that therefor they could never venture to exercise the power vested in them of the rejection of any popular measure adopted by the Commons without bringing ruin upon their heads. There is no doubt that the real responsibility for the failure of the recent session of Parliament rests with the Ministry itself, but this does not render the assaults now being made upon the House of Peers the less dangerous to that body. The Ballot bill has been defeated, and the cry has gone forth, both from the Republican Reform Committee and from less extreme bodies, that the Lords are the offenders, and must pay the penalty of their rashness. The question is, in what way is legislation to be popularized? Is the upper House to be swept altogether out of existence? Is an enormous batch of Peers to be brought ready cooked out of the ministerial oven to override an unfriendly majority whenever the occasion requires? Or is the more moderate proposition, said to be favored in many quarters, to prevail, and an elective body of Peers to take the place of an hereditary body?

There is no doubt that some method of overcoming the obstacle of an obstinately conservative and irresponsible House will be discussed freely all over England this winter, and there are many who believe that the topic will not be distasteful to the present administration. As to the other principles advanced by the English reds it is not likely that they will just yet find sufficient favor in England to carry them to a successful issue. The union, accomplished by treachery and corruption, will, no doubt, one day be repealed, and Ireland be again left free to indulge in Parliamentary fights on her own soil over her own local affairs until she tires of the sport and again demands a change. But at present we do not believe that the Guelphs will be driven into exile and Buckingham Palace be changed into a British White House. A standing army could well be dispensed with, as it is not probable that the English nation

will ever again make use of one, unless it may be to stop the active operations of the gentlemen who have just now issued their reform manifesto. But the probability is that the Odger progressives will fail to persuade Englishmen, in their present benighted condition, to abolish the titles for which they display such profound reverence upon every possible occasion, or to divide the estates now unhappily accumulated in the hands of the few among the landless multitude. At the same time the proclamation of principles made by the self-styled English republicans is one of the striking signs of the day. There is no doubt that the wheels of real reform which have been set in motion in England will continue to move in an onward direction, and there is as little doubt that the dangerous revolutionary elements now seething in that country will be long cause serious trouble to the authorities.

Terrible Colliery Explosion in England.

Another terrible disaster is reported to us through the Atlantic cable emanating in the "black country" of England. At Wigan, in Lancashire, yesterday morning, some fifty miners were at work on a seam of coal when the roof of one of the sub-divisions gave way and shut them off from all communication with the outer world. Actuated by kind and brotherly feelings a party of miners and others went down later in the day for the purpose of either ascertaining the real position of affairs and returning with reliable information in case they were unable to render any assistance, or staying down and relieving the poor fellows who were not only shut out from the glorious light of day but from all that was hopeful as regarded the preservation of their lives. Instead of either rendering any assistance or returning with the news to the distracted fathers, mothers and wives who were exhibiting the utmost grief and consternation at the mouth of the pit, up to a late hour last evening they had not returned, and as no signal could be received from them it is supposed that they penetrated too far into the seam in search of the others, who were encased in their living tomb, and had perished. The latest despatch was to the effect that sixty-nine people had perished, and consequently the additional nineteen, added to the first fifty, must have composed the brave exploring party. It is a singular lesson for the government of Great Britain. They have for years been talking about their excellent supervising officers in the mining districts, from whom every month they receive volumes of foolscap literally covered with examinations and certificates from mines and officials. But however well the government may mean, it must by this time be convinced that, with all the stringent measures passed by the Legislature for the regulation of light and air in these workshops of death, they are practically useless if an inspector will stand at the mouth of the pit instead of going down to examine for himself, make out a false report, draw his money from the treasury, and set the well-defined rules at defiance. Like our own governments and inspectors of boilers, &c., the British people will only learn the insufficiency of their safeguards after ignorant officials who are permitted to hold in their hands the lives and property of the populace have been all put aside.

Thiers, Bazaine and the French Assembly.

President Thiers and Marshal Bazaine, the hero of Metz, have had a conference at Versailles, and, according to our despatch, the conversation was almost entirely on the subject of the disaster with which every one now associates the name of the Mexican general. What a number of singular reflections must have resulted to the two veterans of war and politics! Bazaine could look back to the day when he started from the French capital as Marshal of France, feeling all the importance in himself of a man who had been led by the excited and thoughtless French people to believe he was a great strategic general, and that despite his failure in Mexico no one really treated it as being his fault. He went, he saw, he failed. The venerable old President of the republic must also have remembered the manner in which he had been reviled and snubbed by the gallant gentlemen of the red cloth and the sword because he had dared to counsel moderation to the populace of Paris. Bazaine, after having received an audience of the President, received permission to make a statement before the Investigating Committee. Here he made a speech in justification of his conduct during the war, and maintained that the cause of the fall of Metz was not owing to either lack of men, mental courage or discipline in the forces under his command, but simply for lack of ammunition. The Marshal knew perfectly well he was talking against time; for after the action of the nation for months past it is certain the statement was taken only for the trifle it was worth. Bazaine has certainly seen the pictures reversed, and he hope he will profit by the lessons he has received.

In the Assembly a bill was brought in charging the entire nation with the cause of the war and the direful disasters carried out subsequently in the field and at home by the Communists, and ordering the sum of 160,000,000 francs to be raised and distributed among the sufferers throughout the country. A statement to the effect that the Duke d'Aumale had been created Governor of Algeria is authoritatively denied.

THE BROOKLYN STREET COMMISSIONER has formally notified the Superintendent of the Union Ferry Company that unless the new ferry house at Fulton street, Brooklyn, be removed within five days he will proceed to demolish it. As the stubborn corporation that runs the Brooklyn ferries is not used to submitting to law or threats we may expect to see a lively "abindny" in the neighborhood of the new building about next Tuesday.

AN EXTRAORDINARY PEOPLE.—During the fiscal year which ended at July 1 we imported of foreign goods seventy-six millions of dollars more than we exported of domestic products. The year before we had been content with an excess of only forty-three millions. But we paid for our extravagance like princes. We shipped to foreign countries during the same year a little over seventy-six millions in specie, and more than settled the account.

The Political Movements of the Day—The September, October and November Elections.—The Outlook for 1872.

In the California State election yesterday, from the returns so far received at this office, the republicans have certainly gained and the democrats have lost ground. Indeed, it is intimated that the republicans have even succeeded in carrying the State. In the Territorial election of Wyoming on Tuesday last, likewise, the republicans made some remarkable gains in a comparison of the results with those of their last preceding election; and in the municipal election of Wilmington, Del., on the same day, they secured heavy accessions to their vote of last year. So far, then, the general drift of the elections of September is that of the August elections, and is in favor of the party in power and of another term of four years to General Grant's administration. On Monday next the State contest in Maine will be determined, and, from all the indications before us, the results will show that in the far East, as in the far West and the South, the lines of the national administration party remain unshaken. The probabilities are the same in regard to the October election in Ohio, though in Pennsylvania the battle will evidently be sharply contested; for while in Ohio the republicans are united and enthusiastic, and the democrats are somewhat divided and demoralized, in Pennsylvania this state of things is reversed.

Of all the autumnal elections of this year, however, those of November in New York and Massachusetts will be the most significant and important, from their peculiar bearings upon the great Presidential contest of next year. The question of equal rights and religious liberty, and the sanguinary riot connected with the Orange procession in this city of July last, threatened for a time to become the controlling agitation in the city and the State and throughout the United States; but it has apparently died out, and the new issue raised of the alleged outrageous administration of our city government in its expenditures of the public money now overshadows all other political questions in New York, from this metropolis to the remotest corners of the commonwealth. Nor is the agitation of our municipal affairs confined to this city or State; but in every State it forms a leading specification in the general indictment against the democratic party as unfit to be entrusted with the important responsibilities of the national government. But it is still upon this issue in this State that the most disastrous consequences menace the democratic party.

The Fenton-Greeley republican faction are apparently resolved, if possible, because of their exclusion from the flashpots of the Custom House, to cut off General Grant with one Presidential term. Under ordinary circumstances a Custom House defection such as this would divide the republican party of the State into two hostile camps, as a similar defection divided the democracy under the administration of Pierce. But the extraordinary charges made of corruptions involving millions of money in the administration of our city affairs have apparently brought the Fenton-Greeley faction to the decision that they will stand by the proceedings of the coming Republican State Convention, Grant or anti-Grant, Murphy or no Murphy, in order to make "a long pull, a strong pull and a pull all together" against Tammany Hall. And suppose by this pull they carry the State Legislature—and they may do it—what then will be the outlook for 1872 to the democratic party of the Union? It will be exceedingly gloomy; for New York is the democratic centre bomb-proof magazine and base of operations, and so, in losing New York in November, 1871, they lose their last visible chance of victory in the great general engagement of November, 1872.

Hence we cannot be far amiss in the prediction that our coming November election will be the most exciting, the most bitterly contested and the most important in its results of any purely local election in the history of the State. We say the most important, for, considering the extraordinary charges raised against the democratic chiefs of the city and of the party in the State, if they are defeated in this contest they are defeated for the Presidential succession; while if they hold the State they will secure a strong position for a general rally of the party throughout the country for the Presidential battle. In a word, this New York contest of November next will be hardly less decisive as to the depending Presidential election than was that of October, 1866, in Pennsylvania, upon which rested the Presidential hopes of the democracy. They saved that election by a slender majority; and it sufficed to save Buchanan. In the same way, if they save New York this year it enlarges their prospects for next year; but if they lose it they are gone.

Next in importance to New York in its new political complications bearing upon the future comes the good old Puritan State of Massachusetts. Here, under General Butler, greatly to the relief of the visionary and impracticable Wendell Phillips, the labor reform agitation is coming into the foreground. It appears, too, that Butler, to the republican party of Massachusetts, has become the white elephant, and they are puzzled what to do with him. If they nominate him for Governor they fear that in driving off the orthodox men of the party he may defeat it, while if they fail to nominate him they fear that in running as the independent labor reform candidate he may carry off the balance of power and throw the whole State into confusion. It is a matter of little consequence whether the Massachusetts republicans in State Convention upset Butler or Butler upsets them in the election. It is that new labor reform movement that challenges our attention, because of the elements of political power which lie behind it and around it and within its reach. This new party, wielding only a few thousand votes, as a third party, turned the scale in New Hampshire last spring in favor of the democrats, and if it should even approach a similar result this fall in Massachusetts we may look for a general organization of the party for the impending Presidential campaign, which may materially disturb the calculations of democratic and republican politicians. This labor reform party—looking at the present incipient stage of this labor agitation throughout the civilized world, the fearful international included—may perhaps not be sufficiently organized to wield the balance of political power in this country in 1872; but, nevertheless, it may become

our most powerful political party in 1876; and this is doubtless the underlying idea of General Butler's "new departure" in Massachusetts.

So far, however, while the State and Territorial elections of 1871 indicate that on the platform of General Grant's administration and with General Grant as their candidate the republicans are rather gaining than losing ground, there is nothing in the side issues, or disturbing cliques and factions of his party, here and there, threatening any serious resistance to his nomination or his election for another term. As we anticipated at the outset, the "new departure" of the Northern democracy has fallen like a wet blanket upon the Southern fire-eater, and, instead of harmonizing the party in any section, has operated to demoralize it more or less in every section. But as there is no safety in retreating from this new position the only alternative left to the party is to maintain it, and to prove their sincerity in it by adopting, not only the sound advice of Chief Justice Chase on the subject, but the Chief Justice himself as the living embodiment of the party in reference to the constitution as amended in the matter of equal rights, civil and political, to white men, yellow men, red men, negroes and all. In short, the democracy want a man as their standard bearer on their "new departure" whose record will satisfy the country, and Chief Justice Chase is that man.

The Imperial Conference and the Eastern Question—Are We To Have Another Gigantic War?

The cable this morning reports the second meeting of the Emperor of Germany and the Emperor of Austria as having taken place at Salzburg. What importance ought to be attached to this meeting time only can reveal, but that quarter of an hour's conversation may prove to have very important bearings upon the relations of Turkey. Periodically the public mind of Europe, and, indeed, of the whole world, is disturbed by what is known as the Eastern question. It represents one of those chronic diseases of which there are not a few in the body politic of Europe. The Eastern question has long been identified with one of the two sick men of Europe. Practically one of the sick men has been removed. The march of modern progress has almost made an end of the other. The shadows, however, if not the realities, still remain; and it is by no means impossible that the Pope and the Sultan may yet both give trouble to Europe.

A few days ago we called attention to the Gastein Conference, and foreshadowed some of the troubles to which it might lead. We were not without grounds of alarm when on the same day we learned that an alliance had been formed by Germany and Austria, on the one hand, and by Russia and France on the other. The immediate objects of the Gastein Conference were not so intelligible then as they are now. As this Conference is as likely as not to find a place in history, it is well that our readers should know what were its immediate objects. What, then, was it that led to the meeting at Gastein? The story is not long or difficult to tell. Quite recently the Parliament of the Principalties (Roumania) for railroad and other purposes borrowed some ten millions sterling. Suddenly the Parliament, finding it inconvenient to pay, repudiated its obligation. The larger portion of this money was borrowed from North Germany. The North Germans, whatever their faults or foibles, cannot be said to be unfaithful to money obligations. Naturally they felt indignant, and naturally Bismarck felt as they felt. To add to their indignation, it was found that Prince Charles, the Hospodar of the Principalties and a member of the great House of Hohenzollern, had been compelled to sign the act cancelling the debt by the threat that if he did not every German resident in the Principalties would be massacred. Bismarck, not anxious to precipitate a war which might assume dimensions broad and wide as Europe, appealed to the Sultan, who is the Suzerain of the Principalties. The government of the Sultan replied that by the Paris Treaty of 1856, while its superiority was recognized and secured, it was positively debarred from interfering in the internal affairs of the Danubian provinces. As it was impossible to submit to insult, and as it was inconvenient immediately to rush to war, redress for Germany had to be sought through some other means than "diplomatic remonstrances." An *entente cordiale* with Austria was the one arrangement in the premises which seemed likely to bring the Roumanian government to its senses. With Austria neutral and jealous Germany could not afford to rush into a conflict which would most certainly bring Russia into the field, and which would give France an opportunity to repudiate, and to seek by an alliance with Russia, to win back what she had lost when fighting single-handed. It was known that Austria was in trouble; that her German provinces were feeling their isolation from Fatherland; that Bohemia was clamoring for autonomy; that Russia was encouraging the spirit of disintegration, and that, judging from the kindly words of Baron Beust, Austria would not despise an alliance with Germany. The Gastein meeting has secured that alliance. The meeting which is now taking place at Salzburg will perfect the arrangements already made, and probably reveal the plan. Within the last few days we have learned that Roumania has promised to pay, and that Italy, which is in sympathy with the Austro-German alliance, is to arbitrate on the different claims, and yesterday we learned, by a cable despatch, that President Thiers had had a little session with the Italian Minister for the part which his government took in the Gastein affair. Such is the history and such is the result, so far as at present we know it.

At this point speculation is justifiable. The presumption is that Germany and Austria are, or are about to be, united in an alliance, offensive and defensive, and that this alliance contemplates the occupation of the entire valley of the Danube on to the Black Sea. Austria and Germany can bring into the field, at an hour's notice, not fewer than a million and a half of men, well supplied with all the appliances of modern war. The presumption is that Russia is indignant, for this alliance makes an end of all her plans to break up piecemeal the Austrian empire and to push her way south toward Constantinople.

People. We know that France is angry mainly on account of the attitude assumed by Italy. The great question now is, will Russia tamely submit? Will she allow this alliance to take shape and so shut her out from the cherished hopes of centuries? Will she not, counting upon the assistance of France, suddenly make a dash, and then test her strength in trying to keep what she has won? Great Britain, we may rest assured, will stand aloof unless Egypt be in danger. No such alarming combination has taken place since the days of the First Napoleon. It would not be difficult to show that the chances are great on both sides. Germany and Austria have most certainly the vantage ground. But Russia has much to lose by delay, and France might win by prompt and immediate action. Are we or are we not on the eve of a great European conflict? If we can say no more, we can at least say this—another portentous war cloud has appeared in the East.

The Malpractice Makers—Judge Bedford's Charge.

In the dark catalogue of sins against nature there are none which exert so terrifying an influence over the mind as those which write a murder epitaph over the unborn babe. If there is one sacred love which humanity cherishes as defying the storms of fate and the stain of crime, which outlives the poison of cynicism and nestles in the heart when all else of affection is blasted and dead, it is the love of the child for its mother, the love of the mother for its child. So fixed in the roots of our nature has it been deemed that maternal affection, of the few passions of mankind, has been named "instinctive." To what chilling influence, then, must we turn to ask why this holy font is frozen at its source? Have we not churches enough? Are the ministers of Him asleep? Cannot they watch a little while? Is the schoolmaster a demon in disguise? Wearied at the fruitlessness of the questions, we turn to the law and its guardians, and from them to the mass of the people themselves, for a solution.

A sin has grown up in our midst whose human sacrifices wipe out the horror of the myth of the monster Minotaur and the virgins he devoured, which reduces the slaughter by Herod to the rank of a criminal expediency—which has built the bloody altar of a fiercer Moloch in the heart of what we call civilization.

The crime which brought the monster Rosenzweig, from the reeking recesses where his beastly slaughter-work was carried on, has opened up a record of kindred enormities which curdle the blood at their bare recital. Already, within the space of a fortnight, three additional abortion murders have come to light—one which happened months ago at the house of Rosenzweig, Mary Carroll; a second in Brooklyn a few days ago, that of Augusta Post, and the case of Mary Russell, the story of whose death came to light but two days ago. When the evil stares us in the face, with its deadly eyes there is need of more effective measures than appeals to a weakened sentiment. True, the real cure of the disease must come through a moral revulsion among the community; but in the meantime the scalpel of the law must cut the social cancer, out as best it may—and what is more, if needs be we must put a keener cutting edge upon that surgical instrument.

There are cheering evidences on every hand that those in power will unite to drive this "black plague" from among us. The voice of the press is distinct and emphatic on the matter, and the HERALD's call to the police that something more than bungling was expected of them has already had good results. On this head we congratulate them on the success with which Sergeant Brooks did a real piece of detective work in the house of the abortionist, Mrs. Burns. It should have been done before in other instances. The *ruse* of personating the "practitioner" for one night brought six cases of intended malpractice to light. The pursuit of these wretches to their lairs will doubtless bring to shame many a sister and daughter who, like unfortunate Alice Bowsley, was thought by all who knew her but one to be a "good, modest girl, that would not do anything wrong." This is painful in the extreme to contemplate; but it is an absolute necessity arising out of the danger.

From the Bench, too, comes the assurance that where conviction is attainable the highest penalty of the law will be meted out to the offenders. The charges delivered yesterday by our brave City Judge, Gunning S. Bedford, to the Grand Jury, is full of point on the atrocity. He agrees with the utterances of the HERALD and every thinking man in the community when he says "the deed itself strikes, as it were, at the very heartstrings of society." "We have been living," he says, "in an atmosphere of abortion." Good words, Judge; and it wants something of a social storm to clear the air. He affirms that "the majesty of the law" will be vindicated. But almost in the same breath comes the acknowledgment that in this regard it is a shrunken majesty indeed; in other words, he admits that the law on such crimes is not adequate in its provision for punishment. His entire remarks on this point are worth quoting:—

And now, gentlemen, in conclusion, let me express the earnest hope (shared in, as I feel confident it will be, by you and all other right-minded citizens) that the Legislature at its next session will amend the statute book that "Any person who shall administer to any woman with child, or procure for any such woman, or advise or procure her to take any medicine, drug, substance or thing whatever, or shall use or employ any instrument or other means whatever, with intent thereby to procure the miscarriage of any such woman, unless the same shall have been necessary to preserve her life, shall be deemed guilty of the crime of manslaughter in the second degree, as the crime of abortion, shall be declared to be murder in the first degree, and punishable as such with death, instead of, as now, by manslaughter in the second degree, punishable by imprisonment not exceeding seven years."

When that law was put upon the statutes, there was no dread in the public mind that its penalty would be dealt upon other than exceptional cases. It looked to preventing odd, conscienceless members of the faculty of medicine from attempting to "relieve" pregnant women by other than natural means, except, as stated, actually to save life. It did not contemplate the possible existence of a tribe of wretches whose profession was murder. It, evidently evaded the point of the murder of the unborn, and, taking away from the executioner the "intent" to kill his or her patient, made it mild manslaughter, as a warning to him not to allow such accidents as the death of the mother to recur.

In view of this state of the law it has evidently been looked on as a tolerably safe business, and the suggestion of Judge Bedford